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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Scientific Intelligence, DDSAT
SUBJECT : The Cybernetics Working Group
REFERENCE : Memo to D/OER from D/OSI, dated 25 August 1967

1. It is my understanding that when members of the Working Group compiled their General Collection Guide on Soviet cybernetics, they considered a detailed and descriptive format similar to the DIA collection guide on cybernetics, dated 16 August 1965. They did not choose the DIA approach, primarily because its extensive detail would duplicate in part the outstanding requirements of individual members of the Group. The objective was rather to issue a non-technical statement of the range of interests in Soviet cybernetics within OSI, OER, OSR, and OCI. For that reason the Group agreed not to include statements of organization, descriptions of Soviet programs, and similar background material. Perhaps the paper issued by the Group was improperly titled and should have been labeled a "Statement of Priorities and of Interests in Soviet Cybernetics."

2. Representatives of IRS also contacted our analysts about the Guide produced by the Working Group. The IRS people expressed their opinion that general collection guides on the whole are of marginal value when compared with specific collection requirements. They did not appear to encourage the release of a general collection guide on Soviet cybernetics. Nevertheless, if [redacted] of OSI has 25X1A agreed to write an appropriate introduction for this Guide, subject to approval of the other members of the Working Group, this is acceptable to me.

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3. We are happy to have [redacted] assume the chairmanship of the Cybernetics Working Group. The Office of Strategic Research may wish to name additional members to the Working Group if the major focus of attention during the coming year is to be on military application of cybernetics. We would support any efforts by the Group to enlist the help of non-Agency experts on cybernetics.

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/SI [redacted]
 WILLIAM N. MORELL, JR.
 Director
 Economic Research

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Remarks:

George
Please prepare a
draft response that you
and I can discuss.
Perhaps we'll go see [REDACTED]
together.

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Approved For Release 2000/09/07 : CIA-RDP70S00385R000150002-3

25 AUG 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Economic Research
SUBJECT: State of Priorities and General
Collection Guide in Soviet
Cybernetics
REFERENCE: Memo from D/OER, dated 27 July 1967

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1. The questions raised in referenced memorandum have been discussed within OSI and with representatives of IRS. It is the opinion of the IRS representatives that some idea of the over-all cybernetics picture should be conveyed in the Cybernetics Collection Guide because of precisely the same reasons given in paragraph 1b in referenced memorandum for excluding a discussion of the "over-all cybernetic organization." In the absence of some kind of explanation, collectors are likely to be quite confused. For this reason and in response to a request of IRS, [REDACTED] Chief of the Cybernetics and Behavioral Sciences Branch in OSI, has agreed to write an appropriate introduction to the guide, subject to the approval of the other members of the Cybernetics Working Group.

2. Since the Working Group is entering its second year of operation, and because so many organizational changes have transpired within CIA and, substantively, within the Soviet cybernetics program since the committee was organized, it is our opinion that this is an opportune time not only to make a change in the chairmanship of the committee but also to modify its method of operation. With regard to the chairmanship, we would like to designate [REDACTED] for this position. As for methods of operation, we would like to see a mechanism established whereby substantive inputs are obtained

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GROUP 1
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Downgrading and
Declassification

25 AUG 1967

Approved For Release 2000/09/07 : CIA-RDP70S00385R000100150002-3

SUBJECT: State of Priorities and General
Collection Guide in Soviet
Cybernetics

from outside experts in the sub-fields of cybernetics. We believe that such inputs are necessary to the committee in reaching meaningful conclusions with regard to the Soviet cybernetics research program and for estimating the potential impact of such research on Soviet strategic capabilities. Organizational details of such a mechanism would be one of the first problems for the committee to iron out, if you agree in principle with this idea.

3. We believe that the focus of attention in the coming months should be upon military cybernetics with special emphasis on the application of mathematical methods to military affairs. The committee, composed as it is now of members from several other offices, is more representative of the Agency's interest in such applications than it was heretofore. With the support of non-Agency experts, it should provide a valuable forum for assessing the implication of Soviet efforts to develop such applications.

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[REDACTED]
DONALD F. CHAMBERLAIN
Director of
Scientific Intelligence

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CIA/ER File

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Scientific Intelligence

SUBJECT: Statement of Priorities and General Collection Guide on Soviet Cybernetics

REFERENCE: Memo from D/OSI, dated 21 June 1967

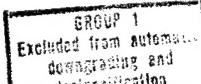
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1. The questions raised in your [redacted] regarding the Statement of Priorities and General Collection Guide on Soviet Cybernetics have been discussed by several members of the OSI-ORR Cybernetics Working Group. Their response, as given to me by [redacted], is as follows:

a. They agree that the Guide probably will not encourage any real collection effort. However, the purpose of the Guide is to combine in one paper the scope of the Agency's interests in Soviet cybernetics. A representative of CGS (now IRS) who read a draft of the Guide informed the Working Group that it would be very useful as a general statement of Agency requirements on the subject. The Guide contains a statement to the effect that it is not intended to replace detailed requirements of components that are charged with responsibilities for specific aspects of cybernetics. It is hoped that gaps in intelligence will continue to be included by these components in their separate requirements.

b. The Working Group did not feel that it was appropriate in this particular paper to include a reference to the "overall cybernetic organization." Apparently the lines of responsibility are so diffused throughout the many institutes, universities, and ministries involved in one phase or another of cybernetics that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to identify an "overall structure" in an administrative sense. As you know, "cybernetics" in the USSR includes a whole host of activities not included in the Western usage of that word, and many of these activities simply do not fit together administratively.

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2. You will recall that the OSI-ORR Cybernetics Working Group was established with the understanding that the chairmanship would alternate between OSI and ORR. The present ORR Chairman has served for about one year, and you may want to consider designating a person from OSI to serve as chairman.

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JS/ [REDACTED]

WILLIAM N. MORELL, Jr.
Director
Economic Research

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ORR/D/R [REDACTED] nwm/7118 (25 Jul 67)

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21 JUN 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Statement of Priorities and General
Collection Guide on Soviet
25X1A Cybernetics

REFERENCE: [REDACTED] Memo, dated 13 June 1967

1. In looking over the Statement of Priorities, there seems to be one important omission, although perhaps its buried somewhere. It seems to me that it is important to place the overall cybernetics organization in proper perspective, determine the extent of its authority and responsibilities, see how its organized, and in general estimate its probable effectiveness. I find that our intelligence in this area is not particularly good.

2. With regard to the collection Guide, I guess I have a basic question as to its value, I cannot believe that it is going to encourage any real collection. No effort has been made in this guide to identify what we know already and what we don't know. I believe the most important job is to establish clearly on some priority bases the significant gaps that exist today in our intelligence on Soviet cybernetics. Perhaps it is the Committee's intention to produce this next.

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[REDACTED]
DONALD F. CHAMBERLAIN
Director of Scientific Intelligence

23 JUN 1967

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Remarks:

George - The attached comments by Chombeau are in fact the conclusions I've reached jointly in our last conversation - Please read over & discuss with me

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Cybernetics Working Group
Seventh Meeting - 25 May 1967

The Group met to discuss and approve a final version of the general collection guide and statement of priorities on cybernetics in the USSR. The paper will be ready for distribution within the next few weeks.

For its next meeting the Group plans to have a representative from FTD discuss research in that organization on Soviet cybernetics.

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Chairman

cc: DD/ORR, Ch/E

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Noted By D/RR

Cybernetics Working Group
Sixth Meeting - 1 May 1967

The Group met to review a draft of the general collection guide now under preparation. Suggestions were made and agreed upon regarding additional sections for the guide, including a statement of priorities. Members will prepare material to augment the present draft, and will meet on May 25 (1000, Room 4G43) to discuss and approve a final version of the guide.

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Chairman

cc: DD/ORR, Ch/E

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MEETINGS 9

Cybernetics Working Group
Fifth Meeting - 31 January 1967

The Group discussed the problems in identifying military application of cybernetics in the USSR. Of particular concern is the extent to which the Soviets use cybernetic methods in making strategic choices and in national security management.

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Two additional contributions were received for the concise general collection guide that the Group is preparing. [REDACTED] of CGS, who was present at this meeting, indicated that the forthcoming collection guide would be particularly useful in identifying the general interests of this Group. The collection guide will be ready for final consideration by members of the Group at their next meeting and will be released shortly thereafter. It was agreed that individuals would continue their efforts to develop detailed requirements on specific cybernetics topics for which they have responsibility.

[REDACTED] of ORD was welcomed as a member of the Group.

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[REDACTED]
Chairman

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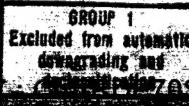
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